

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Historic name	<u>First National Bank Building</u>
Other name/site number	183-5120-0001

Street & number 100 N. Main ☐ not for publication  
City or town Smith Center ☐ vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Smith Code 183 Zip code 66967

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  
Kansas State Historical Society

Date  
11/8/06

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

First National Bank

Name of Property

Smith County, KS

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1889

### Significant Dates

1889

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas Preservation Alliance

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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First National Bank  
Name of property

Smith County, Kansas  
County and State

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival; Richardsonian

**Architectural Description Overview**

The First National Bank Building, built in 1889, was the second home of the oldest chartered bank in Smith County. This building served as the home of First National Bank until a new bank building was constructed in 1930 to house the growing business. The building is red brick laid in a running bond with limestone, red sandstone and red granite accents and a pressed metal cornice. The building measures approximately 36 feet by 125 feet. The focal point of the building is the limestone turret capped by a pressed tin cornice with a conical wood shingle roof and a metal flagpole rising from the point of the roof. The original stairs were removed and have been replaced with concrete steps. Engaged columns with red sandstone base, red granite shaft and red sandstone basket capitals flank the entrance. The original door has been replaced with a residential oval glass panel door. The tops of the column capitals create the spring for the round limestone voussoir arch. Above the arch the turret has three one-over-one wood sash windows. Each bay of the building, two on the north and one on the south, have different fenestration patterns. The metal corbelled and dentiled pressed tin cornice wraps the turret and has the word "BANK" embossed in the metal. All windows have round arches with limestone surrounds and have been infilled with wood to allow for smaller, more modern windows to be installed.

**West Façade**

The west façade faces Main Street and is one bay wide. The first floor has two round arched windows with the north window wider than the other. The larger arched window marks the location of the entrance to the basement accessed by one flight of stairs the width of the arch. The smaller arched opening is the entrance to the flight of stairs up to the second floor. The second floor has triple round arched windows with limestone imposts. Originally a one-over-one configuration with a transom, the transom has been filled in with wood and in some cases the sashes removed and smaller, more modern windows installed. A continuous limestone sill runs the width of the bay and wraps the turret and the first bay of the north elevation separates the first and second floors.

**North Façade**

The north façade faces Kansas Avenue and has three asymmetrical bays. A corbelled chimneystack that rises from the limestone imposts connecting the round arched windows from corner to corner visually separates the center and west bays. The first floor of the west bay has three large round arched windows with limestone surrounds that create a horseshoe pattern. A light well with paired single pane windows beneath the two western most first floor windows provides light into the finished space of the basement. The upper façade of the west bay has a double, triple and double round arched window configuration connected with limestone imposts and a continuous limestone sill.

The first floor of the center and east bays was originally a two-part storefront with limestone piers separating the storefront and steel lintels supporting the upper façade. These openings have been filled in with siding and brick

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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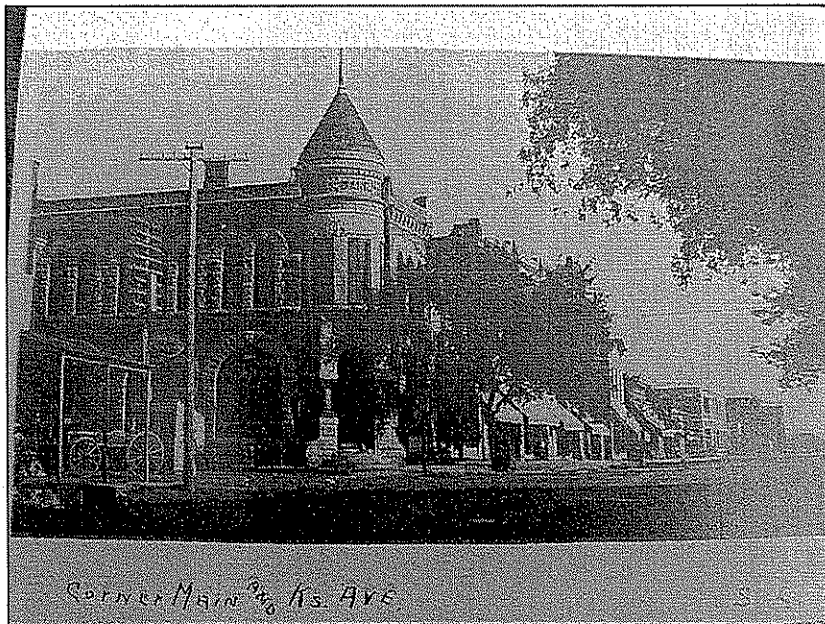
Smith County, Kansas  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Overview**

The First National Bank in Smith Center, built in 1889, is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C – Architecture**. It is an excellent example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture executed for a commercial building.

**Historic Context**

Smith County was organized in March 1872 and in November 1872 Smith Center became the county seat<sup>1</sup>. By 1880 Centre Township had a population nearing 1,900. The Peoples Bank, organized by George W. White and Joel R. Burrow opened its doors in 1881 in a one story frame structure located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Kansas Avenue. Mr. Burrow, along with John s. McDowell, Ed S. Barger, L.C. Uhl and William H. Nelson re-organized the bank into The First National Bank, chartered in 1886. In 1889, the frame structure was torn down and a new brick and limestone bank building was erected at a cost of \$15,000.



Joel Randall Burrow served as the president of First National Bank for 45 years. During that time he also served as Kansas Secretary of State from 1903 – 1907<sup>2</sup>. First National Bank has been in business in Smith Center, Kansas since 1881.

**Criterion C - Architecture**

Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, popular from 1880 – 1900, incorporates 11<sup>th</sup> Century Romanesque architecture of southern France and Spain. Made popular by Henry Hobson Richardson (1838 – 1886) and his followers, this style of architecture was most commonly used for churches, courthouses, libraries and railway stations. The main characteristics of this style are round-headed Romanesque arches, often springing from clusters of short squat columns, recessed entrances, richly varied rustication, blank stretches of walling contrasting with bands of windows, and cylindrical towers with conical caps embedded in the walling, and picturesque massing. HH Richardson's followers include the generation of architects practicing in the 1880s such as Willis T. Proudfoot (1860-

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kanecoll.org/books/cutler/smith/smith-co-pl.html>

<sup>2</sup> *Our 100<sup>th</sup> Year: 1886-1896, The First National Bank, Smith Centre, Kansas*

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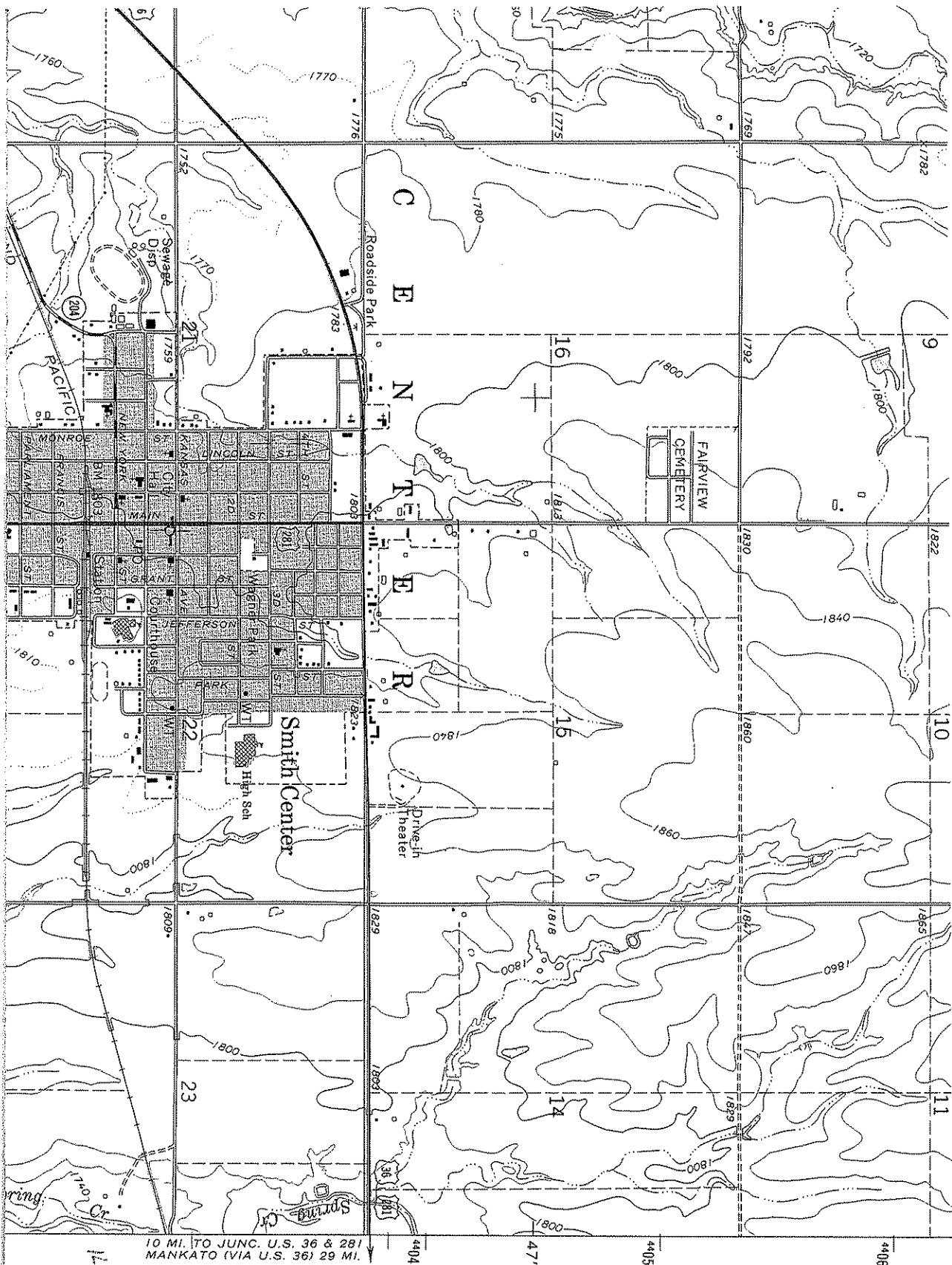
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*Our 100<sup>th</sup> Year: 1886-1986*. First National Bank, Smith Center, Kansas.

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 Smith Co., KS  
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